

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 4 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 2 were previously cancelled. Claim 3 is in independent form.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103

4-5. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,505,506 to Kleefeldt in view of European Publication 940,241 to Schneegans. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Examiner contends that Kleefeldt discloses a method for fabricating a supporting assembly including “placing the first metal plate (2) into a mold die (col. 2, lines 58-64), inserting the actuating pin (12) into the mold die which is separate and spaced from the first metal plate (fig. 1), and molding the shell to the first metal plate in the mold die and around the actuating pin to englobe the actuating pin in the shell (col. 2, lines 61-63).”

Claim 3 includes the steps of “placing the first metal plate into a mold die” and “inserting the actuating pin into the mold die separate and spaced from the first metal plate.” In contrast, Kleefeldt discloses a plate (2) including pivots (12, 15) and a housing (5) made of durable plastic that is injection molded around the steel plate (2). *See* column 2, lines 58-63. The pivot (12) is formed by a tab (12') that is punched out of and bent up from the plate (2). *See* column 3, lines 7-9. Since the pivot (12) is formed by bending a portion of the plate (2) upwardly, and is therefore attached to the plate (2), it is clear that the pivot (12) cannot be inserted into a mold die separate and spaced from the plate (2), as specifically required by claim 3. Thus, Kleefeldt does not disclose this limitation.

Claim 4 depends from independent claim 3 and, as such, is construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph. Independent claim 3 is allowable for the reasons set forth above. Thus, claim 4 is also allowable.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleefeldt in view of Schneegans be withdrawn.

Appl'n No: 10/517,954
Amdt dated August 25, 2010
Reply to Office action of May 26, 2010

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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